



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019, 7:00 PM  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, and Regular Members Sean Dwyer, James Gage & Robert Zielfelder.

**ABSENT:** Regular Members Laurie Burstein & George Nickerson, and Alternate Ann Harford

**STAFF:** Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (On Non-Agenda Items): None

**III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
  - a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

Ms. Houlihan distributed draft pages of the Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory. She explained additional work is needed to incorporate suggestions from Commissioners Gage and Nickerson. Chairman Quarno asked commissioners to review the draft pages in preparation for discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Gage spoke favorably about the graphics added to the working draft document.

- b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

Chairman Quarno shared details about the booth the Commission sponsored with Dan Meaney, Director of Public Affairs from Connecticut Water Company, on October 5, 2019, at the Farmers' Market Green Day to highlight water conservation. She thanked the commissioners that were able to attend and Avery Dwyer for creating a presentation board regarding water conservation. Commissioner Dwyer explained questions he responded to from patrons at the October 5<sup>th</sup> event about Avery's presentation board. Ms. Houlihan explained the board is on display in the Land Use Annex in the public access area.

Commission Bidwell explained the PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) brochure, developed by the Ellington High School students, was distributed at the Farmers' Market. He informed the Commission about a recent decision by Governor Lamont requiring public water supplies in Connecticut to be tested for PFAS.

2. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads

Noting the absence of Commissioners Harford and Nickerson, there was no report for the Ellington Hockanum River Committee. Members mentioned the two recent high wind storm events and anticipated extra fall clean-up needed along the trails because of them.

- a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly agenda/minutes

The Commission reviewed the latest meeting minutes and agenda of the Trails Committee. Commissioners discussed the Trails of Treats event.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads  
No new status to report.
4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: Gage – Lead
  - a. Ellington's Special Town Meeting 10-15-2019 Minutes (Bellante property – 14 Sandy Beach Road)

The agenda attachment referred to a Town Meeting from 2018, not 2019. Commissioner Gage reported trails being constructed on the Bellante open space.

Commissioners spoke about the recent price reduction for the Arens property, a 57 acre parcel fronting on Route 83 within the Shenipsit Forest recently presented to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) by the Commission as a potential open space parcel; at the time of presentation, May 2019, the price was around \$290,000. The BOS tabled action and has yet to revisit the topic.

Commissioner Zielfelder explained the expressed support from the Trails Committee for preserving the Arens parcel and their willingness to jointly approach the BOS. Commissioner Zielfelder will invite the Trails Committee to the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the Brady property on Kibbe Road, and the selectmen's interest in purchasing the property to restore access to Sykes Road - a road used by emergency services. They discussed the possibility of preserving both parcels.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. FY 19-20 Budget Expenditure Update:  
Nothing to report.
2. Approval of the October 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes  
**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (DWYER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2019 AS WRITTEN.**
3. Approval of the 2020 Meeting Schedule  
**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE AS WRITTEN.**
4. Correspondence:
  - a. The Habitat Summer/Fall 2019 edition

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:33 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk